

In Case of Emergency at Sandia National Laboratories...



Emergencies at Sandia

Sandia National Laboratories' Emergency Management Program is responsible for minimizing the effect of an emergency on people, property, and the environment. The program uses proven techniques and equipment and follows National Incident Management System guidance. During emergencies, lab officials work closely with Kirtland Air Force Base and local, state, tribal, and federal government agencies, as well as private organizations such as area hospitals and ambulance services.

As part of Sandia's national security mission, Lab employees handle a variety of hazardous chemicals and radiological materials. Sandia

emergency responders are knowledgeable about these hazards and are trained to respond to emergencies associated with them. To prepare for possible emergencies, Sandia routinely conducts hazards assessments of all significant Sandia facilities and processes.

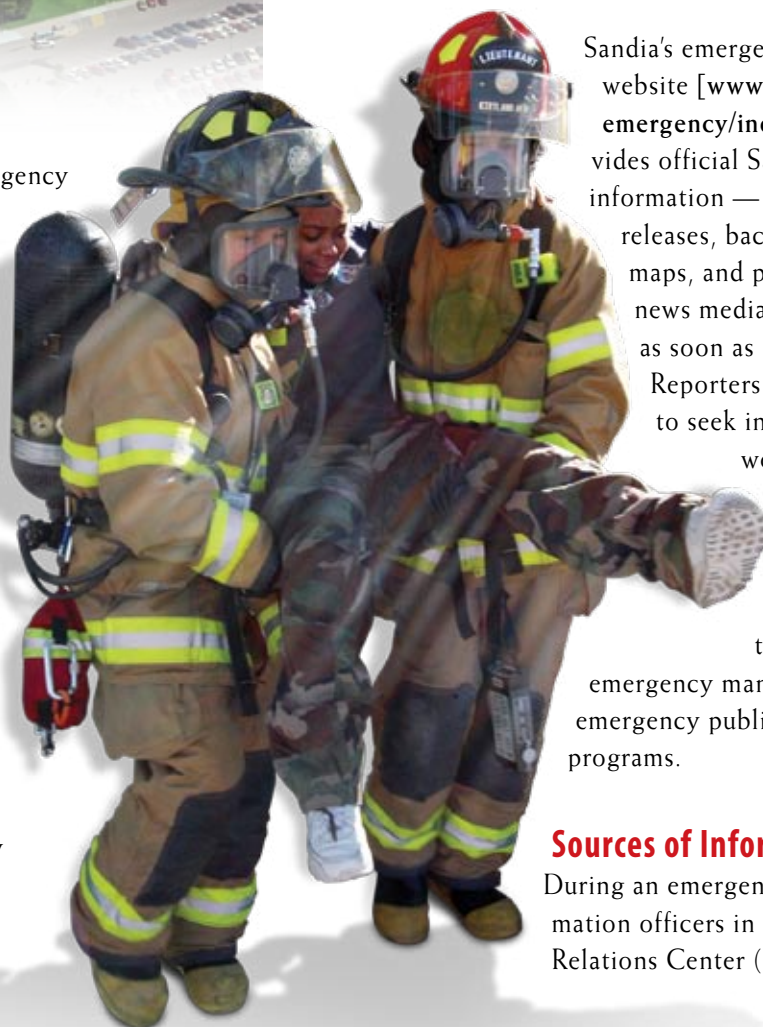
Emergency Public Information

Sandia is dedicated to providing the public with timely and accurate emergency information. Sandia's public information staff works closely with members of the news media to provide verified emergency information to area residents and public officials.

Sandia's emergency information website [www.sandia.gov/emergency/index.html] provides official Sandia emergency information — including news releases, backgrounders, maps, and photos — to the news media and the public as soon as it is available. Reporters are encouraged to seek information at this website before calling Sandia. The website also contains general information about Sandia's emergency management and emergency public information programs.

Sources of Information

During an emergency, public information officers in Sandia's Media Relations Center (MRC) are in



contact with Sandia's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), from which the emergency is managed. Official Sandia emergency information generated in Sandia's EOC is issued from the Media Relations Center. The MRC may also serve as a location for news conferences and interviews. If news media are granted access to Kirtland Air Force Base, escorts may be provided. The MRC's main reception number is (505) 844-4902.

During a serious or extended emergency, a Joint Information Center (JIC) may be established to serve as the single, multi-agency source for official emergency information. All news about the emergency will be distributed from the JIC, agency spokespersons will be available there, and news conferences will be held there. Reporters covering the emergency will be provided a work space at the JIC. As soon as a JIC is established, a news release will be issued from the JIC stating its location and phone numbers for the news media and the public to call for the latest official emergency information. The MRC will no longer be in operation when the JIC becomes operational.

Emergency Classifications

Emergency responders classify emergencies at Sandia to aid in quickly communicating critical information and in initiating response actions appropriate to the hazards



presented by an emergency. These emergency classification levels may appear in official Sandia emergency communications:

- An **Alert**, the least severe emergency classification, is an incident that has led or could lead to a release to the environment of radioactive or other hazardous material. The release is not expected to cross site boundaries. Members of the public are not likely to have to take any action as the result of an Alert.
- A **Site Area Emergency** is an incident that has led or could lead to a *significant* release to the environment of radioactive or other hazardous material. Protective action is not expected to be necessary beyond the site boundary, although off-site organizations may choose to take protective actions for the public as a precaution. Members of the public *might* need to take action as the result of a Site Area Emergency.
- A **General Emergency**, the most severe classification, is an event or condition with actual or imminent catastrophic reduction of facility safety or security systems with potential for the release of large quantities of hazardous materials to the environment. It is expected to produce consequences that may require protective actions for on- and off-site personnel. Some members of the public *will likely* need to take action as the result of a General Emergency.

Quick Reference

Sandia emergency public information website:
www.sandia.gov/emergency/index.html

Sandia Media Relations Center:
(505) 844-4902

